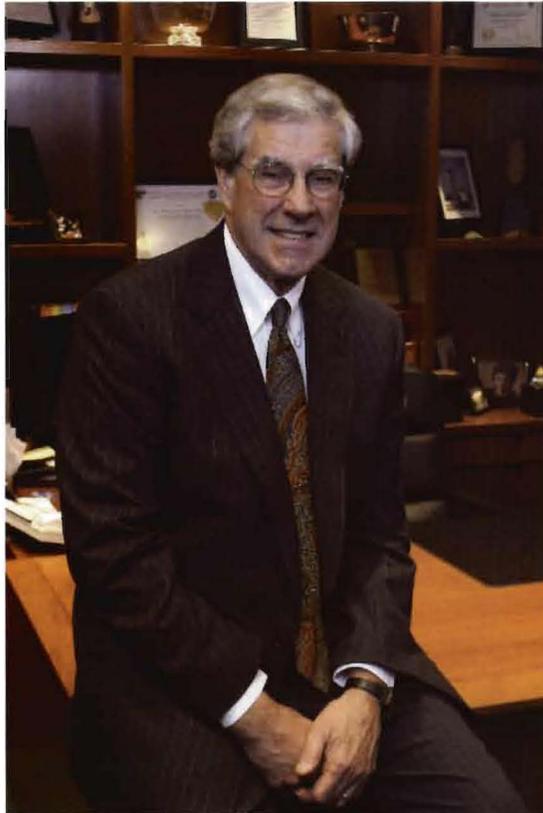


A Letter to Our Friends



President Warren J. Baker (Photo by Patrick Swadener)

As I write this, we are embarking upon a new academic year, and students are returning to the Cal Poly campus, bringing with them a tremendous spirit of enthusiasm and high expectations for the year to come.

Despite several years of state budget reductions, through the dedicated work of our faculty and staff, Cal Poly's learn-by-doing education continues to provide students across the disciplines with uniquely valuable teaching and learning experiences – and an undergraduate education that is second to none.

Our ability to sustain Cal Poly's proud educational traditions, and to make sure they remain relevant to the demands of the new century, is due in no small part to the generous support of our loyal alumni, our industry partners and other friends and supporters.

This Honor Roll of Donors edition of the *Cal Poly Magazine* is dedicated to you. This year we are combining the Honor Roll of Donors with the fall edition of the magazine. Inside you'll read about alumnus Alex Spanos and his wife, Faye. Their generosity spans decades and includes numerous causes, including Cal Poly arts and athletics.

Also included in this issue are stories about some of the teachers, researchers, students, alumni and programs that distinguish Cal Poly as a superior institution of higher education. We're sure you'll enjoy reading about such accomplished alumni as novelist Nevada Barr and Olympic triathlete Victor Plata, as well as Nick Franco, "castle keeper" at San Simeon.

We also take a look at the work of Social Sciences Professor and archaeologist Terry Jones and Adjunct Biology Professor Paul Nakane, who was recently honored for his work in the study of cells.

You can read all about the role Cal Poly is playing in the growing wine and cheese industries.

And we remember President Ronald Reagan, a republican, through the eyes of Cal Poly President Emeritus Robert E. Kennedy, a democrat.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Cal Poly Magazine*. It was prepared with you in mind, so please let us know your thoughts and comments.